

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A stump grubber (10, 50) comprising a frame (14, 54) incorporating coupling means (13, 53) to couple the stump grubber to a work machine (12, 52), and, supported on the frame,
 - two gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) to grip a stump (38), arranged on opposite sides of the ~~apparatus stump grubber~~ (50) to pivot around mainly parallel pivot axes (67), the gripping means comprising from 5 to 20 spikes or blades (32, 34, 36, 71-75) arranged to penetrate into ~~or end/or~~ under the stump (38), whereby the blades or spikes of one gripping means are arranged along a distance in the direction of its pivoting axis, which distance is no less than 400 mm,
 - a cutting blade (18, 58), at least mainly cylindrical in form, arranged to cut downwards to sever roots (46) around the stump (38), the cylindrical cutting blade having a diameter which is sufficiently large to allow the gripping means to operating inside the cutting blade, and
 - power means (24, 56) to move the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) and the cutting blade (18, 58) relative to each other in at least a substantially vertical direction so that the cylindrical cutting blade (18, 58) is arranged to be downwardly movable relative to the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70), and the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) are arranged to be upwardly movable relative to the cylindrical cutting blade (18, 56) in order to lift the stump (38) from the ground (44).

2. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[in that]]~~ the cylindrical cutting blade (18) is arranged to be at least mainly immovable vertically relative to the frame (14).

3. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, wherein [[in that]] the gripping means (70) are arranged to be at least mainly immovable vertically relative to the frame (54).

4. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, wherein [[in that]] the diameter of the cylindrical cutting blade is 1000-4000 mm ~~(18, 58) comprises a blade that is at least mainly cylindrical in form.~~

5. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, wherein [[in that]] the power means (24, 56) are attached to at least one of the frame (54), ~~and/or~~ the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) and [[or]] the cylindrical cutting blade (18, 58) by means of a joint (57) that allows the power means to move relative to the frame (54), the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) or the cylindrical cutting blade (18, 58) in a direction other than the direction of the force generated by the power means.

6. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein in that it furthermore comprises~~ pivoting means (27, 28, 30, 67, 68, 69) to pivot the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) relative to the frame (14, 54) between at least two positions, namely an open position, where the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) are intended to be out of contact with the stump (38), and a closed position, where the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) are intended to be in contact with the stump (38) and to have a grip on the stump (38).

7. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 6, wherein [[in that]] the pivoting means include hinge members (27, 67, 69) and power members (28, 30, 68) to pivot the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) relative to the frame (14, 54).

8. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, wherein [[in that]] the spikes or blades (32, 34, 71-75) are formed to have cutting and slitting inner

surfaces (48 in order in such a way as to slit the stump (38) and, thus to split the stump (38).

9. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, wherein [[in that]] the spikes or blades (32, 34) of the gripping means are coarsely serrated ~~on their cutting side (48).~~

10. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, wherein ~~in that two blades (32, 34, 71-75) wherein two gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) are arranged at least almost on opposite sides of the apparatus (10, 50) to pivot around parallel pivot axes (27, 67)~~

- asymmetrically so that the spikes or blades (32, 34, 36, 71-75) of the two gripping means ~~said blades~~ are arranged to pass each other in the closed position, or
- symmetrically so that the said spikes or blades (32, 34, 36, 71-75) are arranged to be aligned in the closed position.

11. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 1, wherein [[in that]] the two gripping means both comprise no less than three blades or spikes (71-75) arranged to be mainly immovable relative to one another.

12. (currently amended) A stump grubber according to claim 11, wherein [[in that]] the blades or spikes (71-75) of one gripping means (70) are arranged along a distance, measured in the direction of their pivot axis (67), of no less than 600 mm ~~or no less than 800 mm.~~

13. (currently amended) A method for grubbing stumps (38) with a stump grubber (10, 50) coupled to [[the]] a lifting means (12, 52) of a work machine arranged to provide hydraulic pressure for the operating of the stump grubber, with gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) and a cutting blade (18, 58), at least mainly cylindrical in form, supported on the frame (14, 54) of the stump grubber, and in which method

- the stump grubber (10, 50) is positioned above the stump (38) with the help of the lifting means (12, 52) of the work machine,
- two gripping means (70) on opposite sides of the ~~apparatus~~ stump grubber (50) are pivoted around mainly parallel pivot axes (67),
- the stump (38) is firmly gripped by the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) at the side of and/or under the stump (38) by forcing spikes or blades (32, 34, 36, 71-75) into and/or under the stump at 5 to 20 points,
- the at least mainly cylindrical cutting blade (18, 58) is positioned beside the stump (38) around the gripping means in an at least substantially vertical position,
- the stump (38) is lifted upwards and roots growing out of the stump are severed by moving the cylindrical cutting blade (18, 58) and gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) relative to each other so that the cutting blade (18, 58) is moved downwards relative to the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) and the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 70) are moved upwards relative to the cylindrical cutting blade (18, 58), wherein the release of the stump (38) and the severing of the roots (46) is carried out using only the hydraulic pressure supplied from the work machine.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein ~~in that in this method,~~ the cylindrical cutting blade (18) is kept at least mainly immovable in the vertical direction relative to the frame (14).

15. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein ~~in that in this method,~~ the gripping means (70) are kept at least mainly immovable in the vertical direction relative to the frame (54).

16. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein ~~in that in this method,~~ the stump (38) is supported (40) against the stump grubber, also from above.

17. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein ~~in that in this method,~~ the spikes or blades (32, 34, 71-75) of the gripping means (32, 34) incorporate cutting

blades (48), and that in this method, the gripping means (32, 34, 36, 71–75) are pressed so deep into the stump (38) at its side that the stump (38) is at least partially split.

18. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein [[in that]] the release of the stump (38) and the severing of the roots (46) is carried out using only the stump grubber's own power means (24, 56).

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method for the prevention of fungus disease, such as root rot, prior to the planting of a seedling, comprising removing ~~characterised in that in this method,~~ a stump (38) and the roots (46) of the stump ~~surrounding the stump~~ for a distance around the stump (38) ~~are removed~~ from the ground (44) by making a mainly circular ~~wherein an~~ incision of 1000–4000 mm substantially is made at least for the most part around the stump (38) and directed vertically downwards into the ground (44), to a certain depth and, simultaneously, lifting the stump (38) ~~is lifted~~ mainly vertically upwards at no less than four points.

21. (new) A stump grubber according to claim 11, wherein the blades or spikes (71–75) of one gripping means (70) are arranged along a distance, measured in the direction of their pivot axis (67), of no less than 800 mm.